Stationing NSG's at all State capitals

*22. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several people died in terrorist attack on Akshardham Temple in Gujarat recently (September, 2002);

(b) the time taken by NSG commandos to reach Ahmedabad from Delhi and start the operation; and

(c) whether Government propose to station NSGs at all State capitals to tackle such terrorists' attacks without wasting time in flight for their movements from Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The NSG team took 1 hour 30 minutes to reach Ahmedabad from Delhi. The team left Delhi Airport at 2030 hrs. on 24.09.02 and landed at Ahmedabad at 2200 hrs.

NSG team reached Gandhinagar at 2230 hrs. Between 2230 to 0030 hrs. they were briefed by the State Government Officials and they carried out recce of the place. The operation was launched at 0100 hrs. on 25.09.02.

(c) No, Sir.

Stagnation of underground Mining

*23. SHRI GAYA SINGH:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the underground mining of coal has stagnated over a decade resulting in increase in coal imports;

(b) if so, the details of the production from underground coal mines in the country during the last ten years and imports of coal during those years; and

(c) whether Government have plans to increase production of coal from underground mines; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SUSHREE UMA BHARATI): (a) and (b) The trends of production of raw coal from underground mines, opencast mines and imports of coal during the last ten years is as under:

(figures in million tonnes)

Year	Underground production	Opencast production	Import
1992-93	72.562	169.433	6.495
1993-94	73.978	174.709	7.330
1994-95	71.977	185.793	10.556
1995-96	71.894	201.521	12.512
1996-97	70.952	218.369	13.175
1997-98	69.028	231.375	16.440
1998-99	67.761	228.747	16.535
1999-2000	66.827	237.276	19.700
2000-01	66.068	247.628	20.930
2001-02 (provisional)	64.816	262.770	20.548

From the table it may be seen that while the underground production has shown a decreasing trend, this has been more than off-set by a significant increase in production from opencast mines. The imports have no direct correlation to the trends in underground production but are largely based either on the non- availability of the grade of coking coal required or are linked to certain location-specific advantages, particularly in the coastal areas.

(c) The Government has plans to increase production of coal from underground mines through upgradation of technology *i.e.* mechanized board and pillar, and induction of mechanized long-wall (powered support), continuous miners.

Drinking water projects in Orissa

*24. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: